

REMARKS

I. Status of Claims

Claims 13-15 and 22-25 are pending in the application. Claim 13 is independent. Claims 13 and 22-23 are currently amended. Claims 17-21 are canceled without prejudice to and/or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

The Office Action rejected claims 13-15, 17-20, and 22-25 under 35 USC 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Misu et al. (USP 6,662,891) ("Misu").

The Office Action also indicated that claim 21 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of these rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 21 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

III. Pending Claims

Claim 13, the only independent claim, stands rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Misu.

Claim 13 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 21, as well as the intervening claims from which claim 21 depends.

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that, for at least these reasons, claim 13 and its dependent claims are patentable over the cited references.

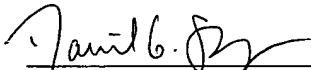
IV. Conclusion

For the above reasons, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.
Prompt consideration and allowance are solicited.

The Office is authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16, § 1.17, or § 1.136, or credit of any overpayment, to Kenyon & Kenyon Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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